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SECURITY INFORMATION

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COUNTRY East Germany

REPORT NO. [REDACTED]

TOPIC KVP Bereitschaft of KVPD Oranienburg II

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VALUATION [REDACTED] PLACE OBTAINED [REDACTED] 25X1

DATE OF CONTENT 8 March to 6 July 1953

DATE OBTAINED [REDACTED] 25X1 DATE PREPARED 19 August 1953

REFERENCES

COPIES 2 ENCLOSURES (NO. &amp; TYPE)

MARKS

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1. The KVP Bereitschaft of KVPD Oranienburg II was subordinate to the Ministry of the Interior and consisted of 1 headquarters, 1 motor transport company, 1 motor instruction course, 1 band, 1 infirmary, the S-1 Co, the S-2 Co, the S-3 Co, the S-4 Co (?), the S-5 Co, the 1st Regt, the 2d Regt, the 3d Regt, a C battalion and the artillery battalion. The total strength was estimated at 750 officers and 1,500 personnel. The unit was quartered in the installation at the intersection of Bernauer Allee and Sachsenhauser Strasse.
2. The artillery battalion consisted of a headquarters with 10 officers, an instruction battery with 8 officers and 100 personnel, a command battery with 3 officers and 18 personnel, the 2d Btry equipped with 4 x 45-mm AT guns with 3 officers and 12 personnel, the 3d Btry equipped with 4 x 76.2-mm field guns with 3 officers and 10 personnel, the 4th Btry equipped with 2 x 122-mm howitzers with 3 officers and 14 personnel, the 5th Btry equipped with 6 x 122-mm mortars with 3 officers and 13 personnel and the B command battery with 2 officers and 10 personnel.
3. Officers of the KVP Bereitschaft included Lieutenant Colonel Strelitz (fnu) as commanding officer, Captain Seibt (fnu) as chief of staff, Major Muench (fnu) as intendants officer, Major Schicker (fnu) as B deputy and Captain Bochmann (fnu) as commanding officer of the SBA.
4. Motor vehicles available to the KVP Bereitschaft included 83 H 3 A trucks, 15 BMW and BMW sedans, 1 DKW sedan, 2 P-1 cross-country cars, 2 tank cars with trailer, 1 ZIS-150 repair shop trucks, 1 command car, 2 Phaenomen Granit-27 ambulance, 1 old bus, 6 x 3-ton trailers, 1 fire brigade trailer, 12 x 350-ccm BMW motorcycles and 1 AWO sidecar motorcycle.
5. The personnel included 10 percent of the 1931 class, 20 percent of the 1932 class, 25 percent of the 1933 class, 35 percent of the 1934 class and 5 percent of the 1935 class. The others were older than the 1931 class. Eighty percent of the personnel served under 3 years, 15 percent between 3 and 5 years and 5 percent for more than 5 years.

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Fifty-five percent came from Saxony, 25 percent from Saxony-Anhalt, 10 percent from Thuringia and 10 percent came from Brandenburg.

6. In early June, the unit was renamed Bereitschaft instead of Verband and the troops were told that all machine guns would be wrapped in blankets during marches. They were also told that the establishment of national forces could not yet be proclaimed because the establishment of socialism in East Germany had not yet made sufficient progress. At 5:50 a.m. on 17 June, the unit was alerted and arms were issued. At about 8:30 a.m., 250 officers and between 600 and 700 VPs were loaded onto 60 H 3 A trucks which had been prepared during the night. They moved toward Berlin via Schildow and had the Friedrichsfelde main supply depot for their destination. There the VPs were shown an propaganda picture on the fall of Berlin and, at about 8 p.m., moved to Kieholz Strasse in Treptow where they posted sentries. On 23 June, the unit was relieved by the Frankenberg Dienststelle on orders of the Ministry of the Interior which had limited the time of employment to a period of eight days. Upon return to posts, the troops rested until 25 June. At 2:30 p.m. on 2 July, there was a roll call of the KVPs who were scheduled for employment in Berlin. They were organized into two battalions each of three companies and placed under the command of a special headquarters. Officers were exchanged between the individual units to strengthen discipline. Details which usually consisted of 3 officers and 20 VPs were established in Berlin during the period of the second employment.<sup>1</sup>
7. In about mid-March 1953, Lieutenant Colonel Strelitz (fnu) stated that the unit which was transferred to Oranienburg from Grossenbain was to be activated into a guards division for the protection of the Berlin area.<sup>2</sup>

25X1A.   Comment. Another source stated that the unit had moved to a summer camp at the Schwieloch See (lake) in early July.

. The date of this transfer could not be determined. It is possible that the unit did not go to a summer camp, but, as indicated in the present report, with strong elements again moved to Berlin.

25X1A2.   Comment. Three KVP units are permanently stationed in the area of Berlin as special units available to the Ministry of the Interior. They are the Bereitschaften in Oranienburg, Potsdam and Hohenstuecken.

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